

## **CAPSULE SUMMARY**

**BA-2199**

**Gills Methodist Episcopal Church**

**3408 Walnut Avenue**

**Owings Mills, Baltimore County**

**1915**

**Private**

Gills Methodist Episcopal Church was constructed in 1915 on land owned in the mid-19th century by the Gill family. By 1850, a Gills Meetinghouse had been constructed along Garrison Forest Road. In addition to the Gills, the surrounding farmland was developed by the Patterson, Geat, Cockey, and Tagart families. Interestingly, the 1877 county atlas does not depict a church in this location. The atlas also indicates that subdivision of the farmland had taken place over the prior twenty-seven years. Much of the land owned by the Gills family in the mid-19th century was occupied by the Schwartz family in the late 1870s. Walnut Avenue, then merely an unimproved road, extended east from Garrison Forest Road. Between 1905 and 1906, a stone church was erected for the congregation by contractor M.H. Merryman. This early 20th century church was dedicated in 1906. Although the extant frame church was constructed in 1915, it was most likely after publication of the 1915 county atlas, for Gills Methodist Episcopal Church does not appear on that map. In 1990, the Gills Methodist Episcopal Church congregation sold the extant church to the Rosh Pina Messianic Synagogue congregation.

This modestly-detailed Gothic Revival church fronts south with a gravel parking lot to the south. Its random ashlar-cut stone foundation supports a wood frame structure clad with vinyl siding. The cross-gable roof with asphalt shingles has cornice returns in the gable ends. The main entry, marked with a double-leaf metal door that is paneled, is located in a square tower with a gable roof that projects to the south. In the second story of the tower is a round multi-light window with a Star of David design. A few of the Gothic Revival stylistic details remain in this remodeled church, especially in the window treatments. Piercing the center of the façade is a multi-light pointed-arch window with wood tracery over three, 1/1 vinyl windows. The entire window has square-edged wood surrounds. On the east side of the tower is another pointed arch window that is one-light fixed over a 1/1 vinyl window also with square-edged surrounds. A one-story ell projects from the north elevation with an exterior-end chimney made with stretcher bond brick. A 1977 stucco addition projects from the east elevation that is one-story-tall with a side gable, asphalt shingle roof and an interior-end brick chimney. Also projecting to the east is a one-story shed roof addition with vinyl siding and a single-leaf metal door that is flush with a light.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-2199

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Gills Methodist Episcopal Church

other Rosh Pina Messianic Synagogue

### 2. Location

street and number 3408 Walnut Avenue not for publication

city, town Owings Mills vicinity

county Baltimore County

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Congregation Rosh Pina, Inc.

street and number 3408 Walnut Avenue telephone Not Available

city, town Owings Mills state MD zip code 21117

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 8548 folio 639

city, town Towson tax map 49 tax parcel 28 tax ID number 0407029025

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

1

## 7. Description

Inventory No. BA-2199

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Constructed in 1915, this modestly-detailed Gothic Revival church fronts south with a gravel parking lot to the south. Its random ashlar-cut stone foundation supports a wood frame structure clad with vinyl siding. The cross-gable roof with asphalt shingles has cornice returns in the gable ends. The main entry, marked with a double-leaf metal door that is paneled, is located in a square tower with a gable roof that projects to the south. In the second story of the tower is a round multi-light window with a Star of David design. A few of the Gothic Revival stylistic details remain in this remodeled church, especially in the window treatments. Piercing the center of the façade is a multi-light pointed-arch window with wood tracery over three, 1/1 vinyl windows. The entire window has square-edged wood surrounds. On the east side of the tower is another pointed arch window that is one-light fixed over a 1/1 vinyl window also with square-edged surrounds. A one-story ell projects from the north elevation with an exterior-end chimney made with stretcher bond brick. A 1977 stucco addition projects from the east elevation that is one-story-tall with a side gable, asphalt shingle roof and an interior-end brick chimney. Also projecting to the east is a one-story shed roof addition with vinyl siding and a single-leaf metal door that is flush with a light.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-2199

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

**Specific dates** 1915-1990

**Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Construction dates** 1915, 1977, 1990 ca.

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Gills Methodist Episcopal Church was constructed in 1915 on land owned in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century by the Gill family. By 1850, a Gills Meetinghouse had been constructed along Garrison Forest Road. In addition to the Gills, the surrounding farmland was developed by the Patterson, Geat, Cockey, and Tagart families.<sup>1</sup> Interestingly, the 1877 county atlas does not depict a church in this location. The atlas also indicates that subdivision of the farmland had taken place over the prior twenty-seven years. Much of the land owned by the Gills family in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century was occupied by the Schwartz family in the late 1870s. Walnut Avenue, then merely an unimproved road, extended east from Garrison Forest Road.<sup>2</sup> Between 1905 and 1906, a stone church was erected for the congregation by contractor M.H. Merryman. This early 20<sup>th</sup> century church was dedicated in 1906.<sup>3</sup> Although the extant frame church was constructed in 1915, it was most likely after publication of the 1915 county atlas, for Gills Methodist Episcopal Church does not appear on that map.<sup>4</sup> In 1990, the Gills Methodist Episcopal Church congregation sold the extant church to the Rosh Pina Messianic Synagogue congregation.

<sup>1</sup> J.C. Sidney, *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys* (Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850).

<sup>2</sup> *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G.M. Hopkins, 1877).

<sup>3</sup> Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

<sup>4</sup> *Map of Baltimore County* (Philadelphia, PA: G.W. Bromley, 1915).

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-2199

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland.* Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.  
Baltimore County Historic Inventory.  
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.  
*Map of Baltimore County.* Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.  
Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.  
Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1.97 Acres  
Acreage of historical setting Unknown  
Quadrangle name Reisterstown Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Since its construction in 1915, Gills Methodist Episcopal Church has been associated with the 1.97 acres of land known as tax parcel 28 of map 49 located in the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's office.

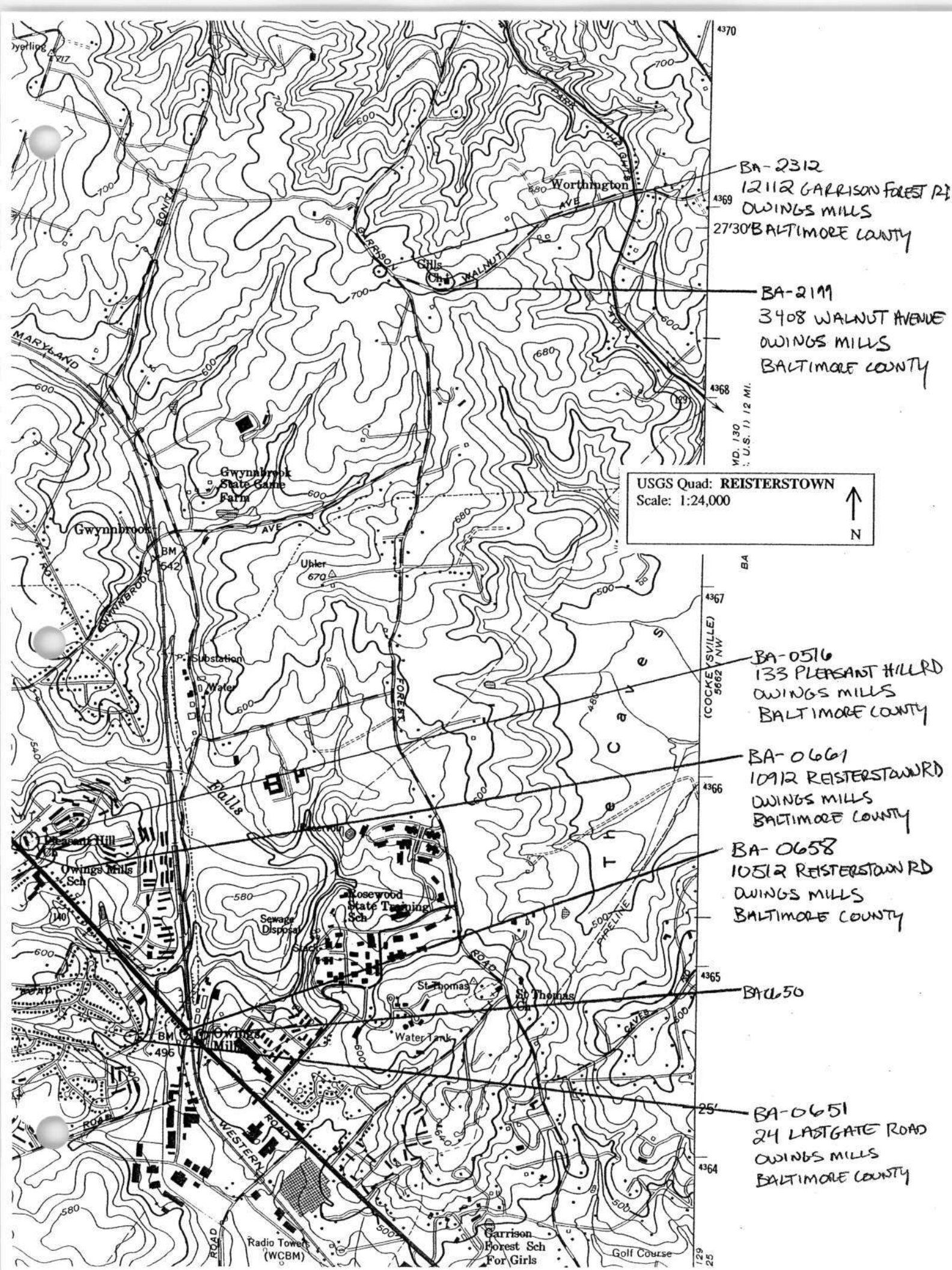
## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Traceries, Incorporated	date	May 29, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600





BA-2199

3408 WALNUT AVENUE

OWINGS MILLS

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TERRORIES

3/2001

MD-SHD

SE CORNER

1 of 3



BA-2199

3108 WALNUT AVENUE

OWINGS MILLS

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TERRACES

3/2001

MD-54RD

SW CORNER

243



BA-2199  
3408 WALNUT AVENUE  
OWINGS MILLS  
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD  
TRAILERIES  
3/2001  
MD SHRD  
N ELEVATION  
3 of 3

BA- 2199

**GILLS M. E. CHURCH** - 1915 - 3408 Walnut Avenue, Glyndon vicinity. Gill's Meeting house was shown here by Sidney's 1850 map, but no structure appears in the 1877 atlas. The Sun of January 5, 1906, reported that a stone church was dedicated and equipped with a 400-pound bell. Summerfield Baldwin, owner of the Warren cotton mills, was speaker. The cornerstone shows that the church was started in 1905, but rebuilt in 1915. M. H. Merryman was the contractor for the 1905 building (Baltimore County Union, September 16, 1905). The present structure is apparently frame, covered with aluminum siding, set on a high stone basement with large sash windows that light the rooms below the meeting level. Just east of Garrison Forest Road. Gable roof. Excellent condition, 1983.